

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1-2, 10-13, and 15, drawn to *Plasmodium falciparum* endothelial cell adhesion proteins and methods using the proteins for diagnosis;
- Group II: Claims 1-2 and 16-21, drawn to *Plasmodium falciparum* endothelial adhesion proteins and methods using the protein for therapy; and
- Group III: Claims 3-9, 14, 22, and 23, drawn to antibodies specific for the *Plasmodium falciparum* endothelial cell adhesion proteins and methods using the antibodies for diagnosis.

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-2, 10-13, and 15, drawn to *Plasmodium falciparum* endothelial cell adhesion proteins and methods using the proteins for diagnosis.

Restriction is only proper if the claims of the restricted groups are either independent or patentably distinct. The burden of proof is on the Office to provide reasons and/or examples to support any conclusion with regard to patentable distinctness. MPEP §803.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that adequate reasons and/or examples have not been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the identified groups or shown that a burden exists in searching all the claims.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the Office has not shown that a burden exist in searching all of the claims. This is particularly true since, the same proteins are identified in Groups I and II, and the same proteins are used in the methods identified in Groups I and II. Furthermore, the antibodies in Group III are those that bind to the proteins of Groups I and II.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement.

Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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